

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5162

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008

STRATEGY FOR ELIMINATION OF LEPROSY

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the strategy adopted by the Government to achieve the goal of elimination of leprosy during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) the efforts made by the Government to prevent recurrence of leprosy symptoms among the patients?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) The goal of elimination of leprosy (i.e. prevalence rate of less than 1 case per 10,000 popl.) has already been achieved at the National level in December 2005. The objective of the programme during the 11th Five Year Plan is to further reduce the burden of leprosy in the country. The Strategy adopted by the government to achieve this objective is given below:-

- i. Provision of quality leprosy services to all persons through General Health Care (GHC) system.
- ii. Capacity building of general health care functionaries.
- iii. Timely case diagnosis and prompt treatment with Multi Drug Therapy (MDT).
- iv. Intensified IEC using local & Mass Media approaches.
- v. Prevention of disability and medical rehabilitation of leprosy affected persons.
- vi. Strengthening monitoring & evaluation under the programme.

(b) Recurrence /Relapse in leprosy is rare.

The following efforts are being made by the Government to prevent recurrence of leprosy symptoms among the patients:-

- i. Ensuring completion of treatment.
- ii. Follow-up of the cases for any lepra reactions & their management.
- iii. Counseling of the patients during multi-drug treatment about possible symptoms due to leprosy reactions.
- iv. Regular training of General Health Care staff for quality care.